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## **Empower: Encouraging Social Entrepreneurship** *The Institute for Global Leadership*

Founded by Tufts University alumni Angelos Metaxa (A'91) and Javier Macaya (A'91) and incubated as part of the "Global Poverty and Inequality" EPIIC theme during the 2007-2008 academic year, Empower is the Institute for Global Leadership's (IGL) new poverty alleviation and social enterprise program. Empower's goal is to help educate, mentor, guide and motivate future social entrepreneurs, defining social enterprise as *activities that benefit humankind*. The Empower program provides an educational platform to help Tufts students to understand and to experience how social entrepreneurs are able to conceptualize and apply innovative management, organizational practices and financial tools to empower disadvantaged individuals and communities throughout the world. In 2007, the IGL joined the Clinton Global Initiative with its five-year, \$250,000 commitment to the Empower program.

Empower also seeks to:

- Increase awareness among Tufts' students of the world's poverty, one of the world's most pressing problems, and of initiatives and means to contribute toward its alleviation
- Increase awareness among Tufts students and faculty such that fields covered by Empower gradually become introduced within the university's curriculum and course offerings
- Facilitate experiences that enable students to become aware of our global community and, at that micro/individual level, contribute towards greater understanding and sympathy among cultures

In keeping with the IGL's educational philosophy, the Empower program emphasizes the importance of practical, experiential learning beyond theory acquired in a classroom. To this end, a fundamental aspect of Empower will be to create synergistic relationships with organizations that can provide students customized internship, mentorship, fieldwork, and research opportunities that complement their studies, as well as close interaction with active social entrepreneurs. In order to provide the best experience for the students, Empower has partnered with experienced, highly reputable organizations like the Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship, whose networks and support will help ensure that students are placed with credible, responsible, and effective organizations.

### **PROGRESS TO DATE: PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS**

This table summarizes student opportunities with various organizations that have been made possible through the Empower program.

	Internship	Research	International Site	Financial/logistical support	Publications	Workshops	Still Developing	Student(s) placed
ACCION International ( <a href="http://www.accion.org">www.accion.org</a> )	X	X	X	X			X	X
Action Against Hunger ( <a href="http://www.actionagainsthunger.org">www.actionagainsthunger.org</a> )	X	X	X					X
Agahozo-Shalom Youth Village ( <a href="http://www.agahozo-shalom.org">www.agahozo-shalom.org</a> )	X	X	X					X
Ashoka ( <a href="http://www.ashoka.org">www.ashoka.org</a> )						X	X	
Boston Community Venture Fund ( <a href="http://www.bcvfund.com">www.bcvfund.com</a> )	X	X					X	X
Center for North East Studies and Policy Research ( <a href="http://www.c-nes.org">www.c-nes.org</a> )	X	X	X					X
Elevator Foundation			X	X			X	X
Fuerzas Aliadas Humanitarias ( <a href="http://fa-humexpo.com">http://fa-humexpo.com</a> )			X				X	X
Global Financial Integrity Project ( <a href="http://www.gfip.org">www.gfip.org</a> )	X	X						X
Institute for the Study and Practice of Nonviolence ( <a href="http://www.nonviolenceinstitute.com">www.nonviolenceinstitute.com</a> )		X					X	X
Kiva ( <a href="http://www.kiva.org">www.kiva.org</a> )	X	X	X					X
McGraw Hill Companies ( <a href="http://www.mcgraw-hill.com">www.mcgraw-hill.com</a> )		X	X	X	X			X
Microfinance Working Group @ SIPA, Columbia U. ( <a href="http://www.mfwg.org">www.mfwg.org</a> )	X	X						
MIT Entrepreneurship Center ( <a href="http://www.entrepreneurship.mit.edu">www.entrepreneurship.mit.edu</a> )		X						
Poverty Action Lab @ MIT ( <a href="http://www.povertyactionlab.com">www.povertyactionlab.com</a> )	X	X						X
Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship ( <a href="http://www.schwabfound.org">www.schwabfound.org</a> )	X	X	X					X
Scojo Foundation ( <a href="http://www.scojofoundation.org">www.scojofoundation.org</a> )	X	X	X					
Skoll Foundation ( <a href="http://www.skollfoundation.org">www.skollfoundation.org</a> )		X					X	
SKS Microfinance ( <a href="http://www.sksindia.org">www.sksindia.org</a> )	X	X	X					
Tax Justice Network ( <a href="http://www.taxjustice.net">www.taxjustice.net</a> )	X	X					X	X
Trickle Up ( <a href="http://www.trickleup.org">www.trickleup.org</a> )	X	X	X					
Ujjivan ( <a href="http://www.ujjivan.com">www.ujjivan.com</a> )	X	X	X					X
World Computer Exchange ( <a href="http://www.worldcomputerexchange.org">www.worldcomputerexchange.org</a> )	X						X	

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### **PROGRESS TO DATE: STUDENT GROUPS, PROJECTS, & INTERNSHIPS**

In addition to individual research projects, the Empower program has helped foster and support a variety of group projects and research teams. Several of these initiatives are briefly described below:

#### **ABDUL LATIF JAMEEL POVERTY ACTION LAB (<http://www.povertyactionlab.org>)**

Recent Tufts graduate Michael Eddy is completing an internship at the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL). At J-PAL, Michael is working with Esther Duflo, Professor of Economics at MIT, whose work focuses on randomized evaluations of policies to promote agricultural productivity in Kenya and the impact of women and lower caste members of village councils in India. The objective of J-PAL is to improve the effectiveness of poverty programs by providing policy makers with clear scientific results that help shape successful policies to combat poverty. J-PAL works with NGOs, international organizations, and others to evaluate programs and disseminate the results of high quality research.

#### **ACCION ([www.accion.org](http://www.accion.org))**

As part of his internship with ACCION, IGL undergraduate Jeff Goldberg is currently working on with ACCION Vice President Susana Barton several other colleagues on a \$10 million project funded by Credit-Suisse to roll out training centers for each of ACCION's key regions of operation. The training centers will be used to educate a wide array of different stakeholders within the microfinance industry, ranging from external clients, to partner banks and even Accion's own staff. The mission of ACCION International is to give people the tools they need to work their way out of poverty. By providing microloans, business training and other financial services to poor men and women who start their own businesses, ACCION's partner lending organizations help people work their own way up the economic ladder, with dignity and pride.

#### **ALLIANCE LINKING LEADERS IN EDUCATION AND THE SERVICES (ALLIES)**

(<http://www.tuftsgloballeadership.org/programs/allies.html>)

Empower supported the participation of several members of the ALLIES student group at the Fuerzas Aliadas Humanitarias ([www.fa-humexpo.com](http://www.fa-humexpo.com)) conference in the summer of 2008, where they participated in disaster relief training exercises oriented toward coordinated civilian-military engagement in disaster response efforts.

#### **BUILDING UNDERSTANDING FOR INTERNATIONAL LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT (BUILD) (<http://www.tuftsgloballeadership.org/programs/build.html>)**

Empower supported BUILD in its student-led trip to Guatemala (May-June 2008) where the group conducted a hands-on research project of post-war reconciliation and sustainable development by living and working with the people of two fair trade cooperatives. Before working on the cooperatives, the group spent three days in Guatemala City, meeting with the UN Development Program, the Network in Solidarity with the People of Guatemala, former Guatemalan military soldiers, and a long-serving member of the Guatemalan Congress. BUILD is planning to develop a sustainable relationship with the community of Santa Anita in Guatemala.

#### **CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY RESEARCH GROUP**

IGL INSPIRE Fellow Marcy Murningham is working with a student research team on a project relating to corporate social responsibility and governance. One current project is an exploration of organizational risk management in the context of climate change, conflict, and disasters. The project will map the larger picture, embracing prevention / readiness, relief, and reconstruction, and what the various actors (government, aid organizations, NGOs, including universities, private sector, social entrepreneurs, investors) are doing. In collaboration with members of the IGL's ALLIES student group, they will also investigate the connection between climate change and national security.

#### **ENGINEERS WITHOUT BORDERS (EWB), Tufts Undergraduate Chapter (<http://ase.tufts.edu/ewb/>)**

The Tufts undergraduate chapter of Engineers Without Borders (EWB-Tufts) was formed in 2005 to facilitate university student participation in international sustainable development projects. In the

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summer of 2008, members of EWB-Tufts traveled to Haiti to assist the RESPE: Ayiti team (see below) in evaluating the quality, accessibility, and security of the water supply in the rural community of Balan, Haiti.

#### EDUCATION FOR PUBLIC INQUIRY AND INTERNATIONAL CITIZENSHIP (EPIIC) 2008 SYMPOSIUM (<http://www.epiic.org/symposium/2008/symposium.html>)

With partial support from the Empower program, the IGL was able to bring 55 students from 11 countries (Brazil, China, Haiti, India, Israel, Mexico, Nigeria, Peru, Rwanda, Singapore, and South Korea) to the 23<sup>rd</sup> annual Norris and Margery Bendetson EPIIC Symposium (February 21-24, 2008). Reactions to date range from recommendations to the Mayor of Mexico City to requests for annual collaborative programs with Haifa University and the University of Singapore.

#### GLOBAL FINANCIAL TRANSPARENCY RESEARCH GROUP

Raymond Baker (Author, *Capitalism's Achilles Heel: Dirty Money and How To Renew the Free-Market System*), Steve Berkman (Former Lead Investigator, Anti-Corruption and Fraud Investigation Unit, World Bank), Jack Blum (Counsel, Baker Hostetler; Former Special Counsel, U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee, including the investigation of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI)), John Christensen (International Director, Tax Justice Network), James Henry (Author, *The Blood Bankers: Tales from the Underground Global Economy*), and Robert Roach (Chief Investigator, Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations) will lead a student research team in exploring the mechanisms by which individuals, governments, and corporations transfer money through the global financial system as well as potential means to curb this illicit activity and increase financial transparency.

#### KIVA FELLOWS

This year, Empower supported three IGL undergraduate students – Javed Rezayee, Cynthia McMurry, and J.J. Emru – as Kiva Fellows. For his Fellowship placement Javed spent May-August 2008 in Kabul, Afghanistan. Cynthia and J.J. are completing their Fellowships in Cochabamba, Bolivia and Beirut, Lebanon, respectively. The Kiva Fellows Program offers individuals a rare opportunity to travel abroad and witness firsthand the impact and realities of microfinance, by working directly with a host microfinance institution (MFI). The Kiva Fellow is an unpaid, volunteer based position designed to increase Kiva's impact and to offer participants a unique insider experience. Past participants have found the fellowship to be a great first step in a career in microfinance or international development.

#### MANDELA/MAHARAJ SCHOLARSHIP

This new annual scholarship, honoring IGL Dr. Jean Mayer Award Recipients Nelson Mandela and Satyandranath Ragananan "Mac" Maharaj, will support internships and research in South Africa for Tufts students whose work is dedicated to poverty alleviation and/or activities "benefiting humankind." The first scholarship recipients will assist EPIIC alumni Award winner, Kim Berman (1986), the founder of Artist Proof Studio in Johannesburg, in her nationwide poverty relief paper making/embroidery projects working with women in impoverished communities and in the training of art/AIDS awareness trainers as well as a research project developing eco-fuel alternative to coal.

#### MOBILE METRIX

With support from the Empower program, Fletcher School student Yanina Seltzer has been working with Mobile Metrix, a non-profit organization that partners with governments, NGOs and private companies to provide demographic and other essential information for improving the delivery and impact of social services to underserved or 'base of the pyramid' populations. Specifically, Yanina has been working on "Projeto Dengue", a response effort to the dengue outbreak in Rio de Janeiro in 2008 that, according to the Rio de Janeiro State Secretariat of Health, resulted in 209,310 cases of dengue. Launched in partnership with Johnson & Johnson in the communities of Morro dos Macacos and Vila Pereira da Silva, the project combines the distribution of baby insect repellent with an educational component for household with children under the age of three.

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#### NATIONAL COLLEGIATE VOLUNTEERS ([www.nationalcollegiatevolunteers.org](http://www.nationalcollegiatevolunteers.org))

National Collegiate Volunteers (NCV) is a new not-for-profit organization created by students from Tufts and Brandeis Universities whose goal is to motivate college students to become active citizens and leaders in the world of community service and social justice. Empower supported the first NCV trip to New Orleans in which Nine Tufts and Brandeis University students worked together to provide support for those still recovering from the damage of Hurricane Katrina.

#### POWER AND POVERTY RESEARCH GROUP

The "Poverty and Power" program is an endeavor to study the relationship between extreme poverty and the nature of the national decision making process in the countries of the developing world, especially understanding the role of the elites. The program grows out of activities initiated during the 2007-8 EPIIC colloquium on Global Poverty and Inequality under the guidance of an IGL 2007-8 INSPIRE Scholar/Practitioner. The group conducted an initial trip to Guatemala in January 2008, with plans to continue its work in Guatemala as well as begin in the Philippines. The Poverty and Power program collaborates with other IGL offerings, including EPIIC, Synaptic Scholars, Empower, the Project on Justice in Times of Transition, and Independent IGL Research, as well as other appropriate Tufts programs and schools, The Fletcher School, and the Institute of Central American Strategic Studies (ICASS).

#### RESPE: AYITI

The RESPE: Ayiti project is an effort to identify a broad range of community needs in Balan, Haiti and to begin a partnership with the community to begin to address those needs. After an initial assessment trip to Balan in January 2008 (conducted by four students and two mentors), three students from the community were brought to the 2008 EPIIC symposium. In July-August 2008, the group returned to Balan to build upon the initial assessment trip taken by bringing down partners, such as EWB-Tufts, to form tangible development plans with the community. Additional partnerships are also being explored with the Elevator Foundation and the International Development Law Organization (IDLO).

#### SCHWAB FOUNDATION FOR SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP

IGL undergraduate Piyali Kundu is currently completing an internship with the Schwab Foundation in Geneva, where she is helping with their two year Impact Assessment report. At the Schwab Foundation, Piyali will also research issues surrounding the Global Agenda Council, a group of experts from around the world that deal with specific issues around social entrepreneurship, and help plan a conference in Dubai in November with all the council members.

#### **PLANNED ACTIVITIES**

- Solidify and develop current partnerships (e.g. Visiting Social Entrepreneurs program with Ashoka for November 2008; Ashoka's Youth Venture with IGL's Inquiry program; deforestation project with the International Development Law Organization; workshops with Young Presidents' Organization and World Presidents' Organization)
- Expand Empower network and student opportunities for service learning and research projects benefiting humankind
- Finalize the dates for visits to Tufts by Mohammed Yunus, Bill Drayton, Bill Abrams, Jonathan Greenblatt, and Samantha Beinhacker during the 2008-2009 academic year
- Solidify and strengthen the relationship between the IGL's Empower program and the Financial Frontier initiative